

In 1935, the Siloam Springs Recreation Club purchased the site in an effort to restore it and provide a place of recreation for the local population. Citizens of Adams and Brown counties raised money to match state funds, and by 1940 an agreement was reached to make it a state recreation area. Eventually, the old hotel and bathhouses were torn down, the swimming pool abandoned and the springs no longer used.

In 1954 and 1955, an earthen dam was constructed across a deep ravine and the 58-acre lake was created. In 1956 Siloam Springs was dedicated as a state park, and efforts began to develop its recreational facilities. In 1995, the No. 2 springhouse was reconstructed to the original 1884 likeness. The original spring still flows through it, though with a decreased volume.

as far west as Kansas City, and bottling became a flourishing business for several decades.



**Horse Trails and Equestrian Camping** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The park contains equestrian trails totalling 23 miles, covering ridgetops and steep wooded valleys. There is a separate camping area for riders and their mounts, with water and limited electricity. Horse rentals are not available. Trails are closed during the wet weather. Contact site to check trail conditions.

**Hunting** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■


When game populations justify, in-season hunting is available. Please contact the park office for species, shooting times, opening dates and areas opened.

**Winter Sports** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Winter activities include ice skating, ice fishing and cross-country skiing.

For more information contact Siloam Springs State Park, park office, 938 East 3003 Lane, Clayton, IL 62324, (217) 894-6205.

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so-called by the Rev. Reuben K. McCoy, who had discovered the springs following the Civil War. Originally part of the "military tract" of western Illinois (and set aside to be given to combat veterans), the area was acquired in 1852 by George Meyers for his service in the Black Hawk and Mexican wars. He died in 1882 at the age of 102.

After Meyers' death, Quincy Burgesser, a local businessman and stock dealer, became aware of the springs and their "curative value." He had the water analyzed and discovered it had more "strength" (a higher mineral content) than water from the famous Eureka and Waukeshas springs.

Burgesser touted the water's ability to cure almost all ailments, even drunkenness and drug addiction. By 1884 he had erected two spring houses, a bathing house and the Siloam Forest Home Hotel, and the area became a popular and fashionable resort. Water from the No. 2 spring was bottled and distributed



**Siloam Springs State Park**  
938 East 3003 Lane  
Clayton, IL 62324, (217) 894-6205

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Clearinghouse, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 visit our website at [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us).
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

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**Siloam Springs State Park** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Nature's bounty has conspired to produce a natural beauty and source of recreation greatly prized by generations of Midwesterners at Siloam Springs State Park, just minutes east of Quincy.


The beautifully wooded terrain, sparkling lake and carefully maintained facilities make this 5,587-acre site a perfect place to visit in Illinois. It's an ideal setting for outdoor visits, whether your interest is fishing, camping, boating, hunting, picnicking, hiking or bird watching. The park is surrounded by luxuriantly forested gullies and scenic crests alive with wild roses, black-eyed Susans, white false indigo and snap dragons.

**History** ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Legend has it that spring water in the area has a medicinal effect, thus the name Siloam Springs from a Biblical reference.




**State of Illinois**  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources



# Siloam Springs

STATE PARK





Picnicking ■■■■

The Old Siloam picnic area provides visitors with four shelters, charcoal grills, drinking fountains, rest rooms, shaded tables and playground equipment. The main shelter area, which holds more than 20 tables, also provides flush toilets, hot and cold water, grills, playground equipment, plenty of parking and a set of horse-shoe pits. In addition, there are several other smaller areas scattered along the park entrance road providing tables and grills.



Camping ■■■■

If you want to spend a night or two under the stars, there are 98 Class A camp sites featuring restrooms, showers and electricity, 80 Class B camp sites featuring showers and restrooms and four backpack campsites. There also is a special group campground. There is a centrally located shower facility available to all campers.

Concession ■■■■

Boat and canoe rentals, a variety of bait and tackle, snack foods, soda and sandwiches are available on a seasonal basis from the



concession stand by the lake. Phone (217) 894-6271 for more information.

Fishing and Boating ■■■■

The lake is stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, redear and green sunfish, carp, crappie, channel catfish and rainbow trout. An Illinois fishing license is required. An inland trout stamp is required to catch trout. Designated as a fish preserve by the Department of Natural Resources, only sport fishing tackle is allowed, and anglers may not use more than two poles and four hooks. There are six fishing piers around the lake, as well as bank fishing.

Row boats, canoes and paddleboats may be rented, and there is a launching ramp for private craft. Only electric motors are allowed.

Hiking ■■■■

Hiking the Siloam Springs trails brings you closer to the many wildflowers found throughout the park, including wild roses, snapdragons and black-eyed Susans. There are about 12 miles of scenic hiking trails that go from valleys to ridgetops throughout the park, including a combination 6-mile hiking and backpacking trail. Most trails are easy, but Hoot Owl at 1.5 miles and Red Oak backpack trail at 4 miles are moderate. Four primitive camp sites are also available for those who wish to hike to them.

